Company exercises strict control on reimbursement of medical claims submitted by its employees. No case of malpractice on this account has come to notice. As regards overtime allowance, the Company has taken the following steps:

(i) Planning disposal of work in a manner that reduces need to employ staff on payment of overtime allowance to minimum;

(ii) deploying minimum staff on payment of overtime allowance where such deployment is inescapable;

(iii) staggering working hours, wherever possible, keeping in view operational requirement; and

(iv) controlling expenditure on overtime allowance through periodic reviews.

The Company has been advised to review the position further.

Outstanding liability of ASIAD flats in Delhi

791. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA auctioned Asiad flats carrying an uncleared liability amounting to lakhs of rupees towards property taxes without informing the buyers through sale advertisements or otherwise and that the buyers are now facing great difficulty on account of unliquidated taxes against the flats;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of tax liability against the flats sold by DDA and against those which are yet to be sold;

(c) what are the reasons for not giving a clear picture about the tax liability to the prospective buyers before selling the flats to them; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government for deliberately keeping the buyers in the dark about the unliquidated property tax by the DDA and whether any relief is proposed to be given to the buyers on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (c) D.D.A. has reported that before the auction of the Asiad flats on 26-3-87 it was announced in the auction hall that the allottee is liable to pay the Property tax to M.C.D. from the date the possession is given to him.

(b) M.C.D. has yet to determine the liability of property tax in the case of individual allottees of flats sold as also yet to be sold.

(d) Does not arise.

Telugu Ganga Project

792. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the Talugu Ganga has not been going on as per schedule due to non releasing of funds for the projects by the Tamil Nadu Government for its share of Rs. 200 crores; and

(b) whether Central Government propose to approach the Tamil Nadu Government for timely release of funds for the completion of the project and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The project is not being monitored by the Centre.

(b) Does not arise.

Starvation deaths in drought prone areas

793. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been serious drought conditions prevailing in the Sta-

tes of Maharashtra, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been number of deaths due to starvation in the Kalahandi district of Orissa during the last three months; and

(c) whether Government have provided some special relief to the drought prone States to avoid starvation deaths and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra, Orisa and Andhra Pradesh have reported drought conditions of varying degrees in parts of the States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-USSR Protocol on Co-operation in the Water Resources Sector

*794. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the USSR have recently signed a protocol for co-operation in the water resources sector;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) the areas which are likely to be covered by it; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) A protocol of Cooperation between Ministry of Water Resources, India and Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management, USSR in the field of irrigation and Water has been signed on 3rd April, 1987.

The Cooperation Programme covers areas like construction of dams and canals using targetted blasting method; designing hydraulic structures on unstable soil; studies for design and construction of High Earth and Rock-fill Dams in areas of seismic activity; ground water exploration and prospective drilling; drainage systems for effective control of land salinization and water logging etc.

Application of new Farm Techniques in Rural Areas

795. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new farm techniques have not reached the rural areas in spite of several years of its invention and application; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for the application of new farm techniques in the rural areas in full measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No Sir, the modern farm techniques in Agriculture are being disseminated in the rural areas by extension machinery of State Agriculture Departments/State Agriculture Universities.

(b) The steps taken for application of new farm techniques in the rural areas include:

(i) Reorganisation of farm extension services in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra; Orissa; Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal by adopting the training & visit system of extension which provides for transfer of farm technology in agriculture from research scientists to Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) in monthly Workshops, from SMS to Village Extension